

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1821
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0772

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV SF BC
SUBJ: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S MEETING WITH COLIN EGLIN

1. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO VISIT HERE MARCH 14 OF COLIN EGLIN, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA. ATTENTION WAS IN FACT EXAGGERATED BY DAILY NEWS HEADLINE THAT EGLIN HAD "SIX-HOUR TALK" WITH PRES KHAMA. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH PERMSEC MINEXT AFF, MPOTOKWANE, AND SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY LEGWAILA ON MARCH 15, UK HICOM TURNER AND I ASKED FOR BACKGROUND AND SUBSTANCE ON EGLIN VISIT.

2. GOB OFFICIAL S BEGAN BY EXPRESSING AMUSED INTEREST THAT DAILY NEWS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ITS FACTS SO MIXED UP, EGLIN HAD IN FACT SEEN PRES KHAMA FOR AN HOUR AND A QUARTER. THEY DESCRIBED EGLIN'S VISIT AS AN ANNUAL AFFAIRS, PART OF
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REGULAR SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS IN ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, NIGERIA, ETC. AND AS FAR NORTH AS SENEGAL.

3. SUBSTANCE. TO OUR QUERIES AS TO AGENDA FOR THE TALKS, THE TWO GOB OFFICIALS REPLIED THAT EGLIN'S AGENDA INCLUDED (A) GOB ATTITUDES TOWARD RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT; (B) PROXIMITY TALKS AND NAMIBIA GENERALLY; AND (C) SITUATION

IN SOUTH AFRICA. ON FIRST POINT, PRES KHAMA REPORTEDLY TOLD EGLIN THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS FLAWED INTER ALIA BY ABSENCE OF PF INVOLVEMENT. KHAMA REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH "PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT" OF REASONS WHY THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT WAS UNACCEPTABLE. ON NAMIBIA AND PROXIMITY TALKS, PRES KHAMA REPORTEDLY CONVEYED GOB VIEW THAT SWAPO HAD MADE CONCESSIONS IN NEW YORK THAT CAUGHT BOTHA AND SAG OFF GUARD, THUS LEADING TO BOTHA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TALKS. GOB REPS APPARENTLY DID NOT CONCEAL THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT SWAPO, ESPECIALLY ITS ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO CARRY OUT ITS PART IN ANY SETTLEMENT. AS FOR SOUTH AFRICA, EGLIN SOUGHT GOB REACTION TO NEW CONSTITUTION; KHAMA SAID IT COULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BECAUSE IT EXCLUDED BLACKS. EGLIN DESCRIBED VORSTER AS "IN A BAD MOOD, INCREASINGLY LONELY", IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF HIS GROWING REALIZATION OF THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF SAG ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

4. LEGWAILA ADDED THAT EGLIN HAD, UPON HIS RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA, WIRED BACK EXPRESSING "CONCERN" AT BEING MISQUOTED IN PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE AS SAYING HE THOUGHT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS INADEQUATE BECAUSE PF WAS NOT INVOLVED. EGLIN ASKED LEGWAILA, IN EFFECT, TO SET FORTH IN WRITING THAT EGLIN HAD NOT REPEAT NOT SAID INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS INADEQUATE. LEGWAILA CABLED EGLIN THAT, AFTER HEARING TAPE OF EGLIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE, EGLIN HAD IN FACT TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS INADEQUATE. LEGWAILA DESCRIBED EGLIN CONFIDENTIAL

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AS "MADLY TRYING TO CHANGE THE RECORD OF WHAT HE SAID"
ALBERTI

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Message Attributes

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